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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re the Application of

Robert C. YU et al.

Group Art Unit: 1733

Application No.: 09/683,329

Examiner: J. Haran

Filed: December 14, 2001

Docket No.: 118095

For: FABRICATION METHOD FOR ELECTROSTATOGRAPHIC MEMBER
HAVING A VIRTUAL FLEXIBLE SEAMLESS SUBSTRATE

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are directed to the new points of argument raised in the
Examiner's Answer dated January 10, 2005.

A. Substantially No Added Seam Thickness

In arguing that the process described in U.S. Patent No. 5,688,355 to Yu (hereinafter "Yu") produces a seamed belt having substantially no added seam thickness, the Examiner's Answer indicates that "Appellants indicated in their specification that Yu teaches forming a seam of little (substantially no) added thickness." Page 12, lines 1-2. Appellants agree that their specification indicates at paragraph [0022] that the belt obtained by the process described in Yu "has a welded seam of little added thickness." In addition, seams described in Yu clearly have little added thickness compared to what the present application refers to as a "typical flexible imaging member" formed by overlapping ends of a sheet, which is indicated to be "about 1.6 times thicker in the seam region than elsewhere." ¶[0012]